

## REMARKS

### I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 are allowed.

Various of the claims are amended herein. New claims 40 and 41 are added, and are somewhat similar to the amended claim 21. Support for the claim amendments and new claims is found, for example, in FIG. 1 of the present application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1-41 are currently pending.

### II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 8-39 UNDER 35 USC 251 AS BEING AN IMPROPER RECAPTURE

The claims are amended herein to address the rejection. Support for the claim amendments is found, for example, in FIG. 1 of the present application.

In accordance with the Examiner's comments in item 2 on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments overcome the rejection.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

### III. SUBMISSION OF THE ORIGINAL PATENT

An Offer to surrender the original patent was filed on August 23, 2000. Once the Examiner indicates that the application will be allowed, the original patent will be surrendered.

### IV. DECLARATION

The Examiner asserts that the Reissue Declaration is defective.

Therefore, a new, *unexecuted* Reissue Declaration is submitted herewith. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner confirm that the new Reissue Declaration overcomes the problems indicated in the outstanding Office Action and is therefore acceptable to the Examiner.

After the Examiner indicates that the new Reissue Declaration is acceptable, the new Reissue Declaration will be executed and filed.

### V. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

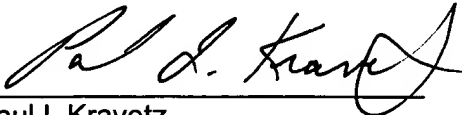
Serial No. 09/654,929

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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